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LETTERS OF WILLIAM FITZHUGH.

July 4th, 1692.

Mr. John Cooper:

Sr. The above is copy of my two former in Philips of 25 April & first of July last dates. Inclosed in this you will receive the second bills Loading for the said Tob^o, also inclosed have sent a letter to my mother, which I desire you to take for its safe delivery. I can yet add no farther about Coll^o Pye having not yet one scrip from him, but hope before Goodridge go I may accomplish what I have above intimated, & by him also you may expect some more Tob^o, and perhaps a small bill of Exchange or two. I would have you send me in these following goods by the first conveniency provided my Tob^o come safe & you get money of mine in your hands and not trust to him or them that you purchase them of, for I well assure you he that Packed up the diaper last year cheated you to my loss, for the damage upon them was before their packing up. The things I would have sent are these following (viz).

July 4th, 1692.

Mr. Nicholas Hayward:

Sr. Brother Luke and Capt. Goodridge brought me the welcome news of your good health & both your letter of the 19 Dec. 1691, together with the French books sent, for which I heartily thank you, as also for your trouble in Mrs. Meese's business; inclosed also received all the protests except Mason's, which miscarried last year though I have made a shift to get the money of him without it. Doct^r Clarke's bills I have answered here, therefore they will never come to your hands, but I believe you will have presented a bill of mine payable to Mr. Bertrand for £14, which when it comes to hand be pleas'd to give due acceptance. Mrs. Letten's business, Sr. really troubles me,

that I should be so unsuccessfull for her, for as in my letter I assured her the Tob^o should be all ready & desired her certainly to take freight, which omission of hers has occasioned the Tob^o to lye all this year under her mark (and so did a great part of my own too for want of freight or a market) whereby she will receive great loss & damage, how carefull & earnest I have been to do her service I hope your Brother will inform you, and this year again, I had not one line from her to direct me in the management thereof. However freight being plenty and not very dear, I ventured to take freight for all her Tob^o that was good already received & what more I could get in Capt. Goodridge, which I hope will come safe to her hands. I hope she wont be so unchristainly as to Judge things by the success, but will weigh the misfortune in the Scales of Reason, and then I hope Sr. you will be my advocate, for I protest the damage was unavoidable, according to the measures I assured her I should take. By Capt. Goodridge I shall send her a letter & bills Loading for what Tob^o is shipped for as yet I am not ascertained of the quantity. Your Brother Sam. Hayward & myself shall duely pursue your Orders as to Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Tod's Interest. I wish you much joy and happiness in your late Purchased villa & hope you'll reap abundance of satisfaction & content there, being such a distance from the noise of the town and trouble of business.

Your Wff.

To Mr. Nicholas Hayward &c.

Mr. John Cooper:

Sr. The above is a copy of my former by Capt. Scot in the Mountjoy of Bristol. Now I have to acquaint you of severall consignments out of our county, indeed all the consignments that goes from hence, and because they are come by my reccomendation: I must give you a particular account of the men; Capt. Brent if he has encouragement may consign yearly, as likewise Mr. Jno. Taliafero of Rappannock & who will never draw more than he has or will immediately have effects to answer, Capt. Mason may consign again but pay no more money than he has effects for in your hands, Mr. Mathew Thompson is a warm wary per-

son and his bills are good for £200, Mr. Hayward is an old consigner and I believe every year will consign some. What others do not recur to my memory. If you please to take my advice, pay no more money for them than you have effects to answer. Inclosed you have a bill of Exchange drawn by John Sanford upon his brother Thomas Sanford & indorsed by Patrick Mickleroy for £25 sterling, which pay receive for my use, also inclosed you will have a bill of Loading for four hh^d sweet scented Tob^o which please to dispose to my best advantage & a barrell stemmed Tob^o freight free. If you could send me a shoemaker or two with their tools as lasts, tacks, awles, knives &c., with half a hundred of shoemakers thread and about twenty or thirty gallons train oyle, & sound proper colourings for leather, I having this year set up a Tan house, it would be of great advantage and Convenience to me. Inclosed Sir according to Coll^o Pye's promise & my former advice you will receive a bill of Exchange for £31 sterling upon Mr. Samuel Groome with letter of advice to pay if not already paid by which you may see his integrity & care to comply with what he concluded your due, and is yet ready to pay, what farther you can fairly & fully manifest which he expects to be by a generall acct. and withall wonders that you should be so earnest in your demands by a second hand & not be so kind as to give him one line from your self therein for as he saith his continuall pressures, might a while perhaps take it out of his thoughts and for some time incapacitate him, but his generous honest principles will push him always forward to make full allowaance to all just demands. This Sir was done in his Presence, and persuant to his letter to you & in that has promised what I told to make compliance of the Remainder upon a full account. I believe a law suit might not have procured it so readily, & as I have said before I have taken such measures for you as if it had been my own concern. Here's a seat of Land adjoining to me called by the name of Chatterton Court, 550 acres belonging to Mr. John Foster of Wisbech in the Isle of Ely and who is willing to sell, but will not to me, though I have formerly endeavored the same, therefore I would desire you enquire out the man, & endeavor to buy it as for yourself, and take your Deeds by lease & Release in your own name and

the very same Deeds transcribed with alteration of Names may repass it again from you to me, which if you should affect & not have money in your hands, upon shewing this letter of mine to Mr. Nicholas Hayward I am sure he will immediately disburse the money for me. The value is worth 60 or 70 £ but I had rather give £120 than be without it, also Mr. Hayward I dare say will give full Instructions and Directions in the management thereof. I wish you as successfull in this for me as I fancy I have been for you in Coll^o Pye's affair, which with a little drink & trouble of my house, I have brought out of another country and performed at my own door, without one penny charge to yourself; before you consummate, consult Mr. Hayward who has been formerly engaged therein. Mr. Storke is now declining in consignments here, as you may see by your and Capt. Goodridge's intending to leave this Place trade, a conveniency lies open for yourself to send a ship of three or four hundred hh^l which might soon be loaden if she brought a cargoe for one half thereof, the other half thereof, I believe might be as soon made up with freighters & the Consignments to yourself, which is Capt. Goodridge's opinion, also in which design Capt. Goodridge and his Jeremey would go a part, if Jeremey might employed as master, & I myself would go a sixteenth of the ship & Car-goe, If I could come in for about £50 and could manage the whole affair here. I am capacitated & under what circumstances I offer it I refer to Capt. Goodridge's relation, to whom I have fully discoursed thereof and whose partnership Procuring an advantageous Prospect.

To Mr. John Cooper.

July 21st, 1692.

Honoured Sir:

By my enclosed letter formerly sent to Mr. Luke by his son, the copy whereof I have sent you purposely open, you may see your former informations were mistaken, for two things I can positively assure you first, that the match was totally made and concluded by Mr. Secretary Spencer's mediation & solicitation,

together with their own concurrence without any partys consulting me for a Confirmatory agreement, not that I believe anyone slighted me in that affair, but guess Coll^o Spencer though I might interpose for an absolute settlement upon his cousin, before the full fastening the Gordian knot. Secondly she was a widow & not left inconsiderable by her former husband, having dower in a seat of land, a good stock of servants, cattle, hogs, mares and horses &c. and a large stock of Tob^o in good debts (her former husband being a considerable dealer here & an able practitioner in Physick both laudable and Profitable employs), besides a house plentifully furnished, where those materials are and a widow to be courted I believe you hardly hear of consultations for marriage portions. The cause being thus truly and genuinely as I have stated I presume you will according esteem of your former information, I mean as to some of the circumstances, but as to the match & his Scituation near me, and upon my land, that is really true, and so do intend shall continue till he betters himself, though under no obligation but pure affection; the plantations of mine he is upon is a pleasant seat & a fair orchard, and designed for one of my younger sons. Sr. I do in my brother and Sister Luke's behalf humbly thank your great & obliging favors to them, in the Purchasing Mrs. Meese's seat, which is a fair convenient tract, and I hope in a little time will be quietly settled, none of my endeavors shall be wanting in the management thereof which by the next conveniency I hope you will hear is fully determined. Had not my hopes been considerable in these wars & the foundering a ship at sea, wherein I had a considerable stake (having within this three years lost two whole crops) I should have been able to give them a larger assistance than at present I am capable of, yet to help to retrieve his late loss, and to join with you in kindness to them, I will contribute what I can, and what shall not be mean in negroes towards his full settlement upon that tract. I wish heartily that the measures about land & negroes had been taken, as in mine to his father was advised, rather than to have brought in goods here to an uncertain market to deal for a bulky commodity in these doubtful times, but since such methods are taken, the best care must be used. If your curiosity leads you to have an account

of our Poor Country, or your desires for anything may be procured here, please freely to command

Honorable Sir,

Your Wff.

To The Honb^{le} Sr. Humphrey Winch, Kn. & Brt.

July 21st, 1692.

Honoured Sir:

Your son with his most acceptable company, brought me in your kind and obliging letter wherein you are satisfied with Mr. Secretary Spencer's character of my Sister, I hope she will endeavor to continue by her prudent marriage and obedient behavior, also therein we pleased to intimate your former order to Coll^o Spencer about Purchasing a Plantation for your son's settlement, but admire to hear joined with it, my giving the like to my Sister, when at the time of intermarriage she was a Widow & had all things suitable for this Country settlement, as Servants, horses, mares, Cattle, hogs &c., a house plentifully furnished with household stuff of all sorts, and a good stock of Tob^o, her chief want being land & negroes, which Mr. Secretary assured my Sister before the consummation, and me after should of his cousin Luke's part be supplied, and that he had then by him & Order for 150 or 200 £ from his father to purchase a convenient seat for him; this he told me three days after the conclusion of the wedding that being the first of my arrival of the same; Coll^o Spencer proceeding earnestly therein & in the performance of the ceremony was a father to the Bride, it being acted at his own house, I being never materially consulted. I presume Sr. if it were otherwise or as you are pleased to intimate in your letter, that I on the behalf of my sister was to perform such a part, I should have either given it from under my Hand or acknowledged before some person or other, especially considering the person to whom I should have obliged, to Coll^o Spencer, a person of great parts & thoroughly acquainted with business of all Sorts, and one that had sate in a Judicial Place and that very considerably for so many years, & thereby had the opportunity

of seeing all the Falsitys and knaverys in all contracts. Again that he should not urge me in half a years time, so long he lived after, for some acknowledgment; also considering I was no parent, I myself so often in that time urging him, and that before good company of good Rank & Quality, that there might be a speedy and ready compliance, of what he had in his power to perform (*viz*), the Plantation. And a desire to hasten what was farther to be performed by the first conveniency, which he as often assured should be performed. Now Sr. I say againe does it seem probable, that I should so often urge him to performe, and he not mind me once of such a promise, if he had gone no farther. This Sr. I don't hereby say but can make it manifest by good testimony & *resipsa loquitur*, the whole circumstances speak it, for I had not to deal with a fool nor an inconsiderable person, one that would be pleased with words, or a friend to prosecute, but one of great ability and of as great authority by the one, able to prepare matters by the other able effectually to prosecute the same, if any such thing had been, I take GOD & his holy Angels to witness that the above premises is wholly and in every tittle true and shall leave it to yourself to draw the conclusion. What services I have done him since his intermarriage, I had rather you should hear from himself, or any other hand than from me, yet this much I must say (He not liking his seat belonging to his wife in right of Dower nor indeed to be cut and make conveniency's upon that which perpaps he might lose tomorrow) has lived upon a Plantation of mine furnished with a good house & a considerable Orchard, and supplied with all conveniencys with out a penny Disbursements and which would indeed have yielded me 2000 or 3000 lbs Tob^o p. annum, which I have freely let him enjoy & shall yet do till he is well fixed upon one of his own, or my son that I design it for comes of age, a boy of five years old, have hitherto and yet shall continue to give him my best advice & assistance in management of his Tob^o and any other goods, have been openhanded to him upon all occasions & have severall times not only assisted him with my advice but Purse too and that freely. And now since his arrivall poor gentleman himself and wife have had a violent and tedious fit of sickness. I took care to get them to my house and to have

the best help & means the country afforded for their Recovery, which now thank God is perfected. I refer to Sr. Humphrey Winch his relation, what I design about his supply with Negroes, according to my poor ability. I hope Sr. by this I have shewn you the steps to the match, the agreement before & after it and my behavior hitherto & future intentions, and I presume cleared, that it is pure affection & respect and not any obligatory promise or engagement. I could heartily Sr. have wished that the money bestowed upon goods & brought in with him, had been lodged in some able merchants hand in London, ready for a purchase of Negroes or laid out with some of the Royal African Company for such an intent, according to my letter last year, for as you say in your trading by sea is very difficult & uncertain in these war times, for a Trader, today he may be worth 1000 £ and tomorrow not worth a groat. I speak experimentally by my own losses within this 3 years at sea. I hope Sr. you will be so kind as to continue your correspondence by an early letter next year, which will highly oblige & honour

Worthy S^r,

Your Wff.

To Oliver Luke Esq^r at Woodend &c.